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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

Sixth Annual Meeting at Pasadena, Cal., May 18-24, 1911

When it was learned that the American library association had decided to meet at Pasadena in May, there was a strong feeling on the part of many members of the American association of law libraries that it was inadvisable to meet at the same time and place because the distance from the center of the country was so great, and because sessions during May of courts and legislatures would prevent many from attending.

The conference, although smaller than usual, was most gratifying, showing as it did an interest in the work of the Association on the part of many who had never met with us before, and giving others an opportunity to make new acquaintances and to learn of library activities which had not before come to their attention.

Lack of space makes it impossible to give detailed accounts of all the papers and reports presented. These will be found in *extenso* in future numbers of the Law Library Journal, which is published as a supplement to the Index to Legal Periodicals. The issues of this publication can be secured from the Secretary, the subscription price being \$5 a year.

There was presented a valuable paper on Ohio Reports by ex-President E. A. Feazel, of Cleveland. The information contained in this paper will be of great use to law librarians, giving as it does a key to the confused series of Reports published in Ohio.

Vaseline treatment of leather bindings was minutely described by Dr. G. E. Wire, who is an expert on matters of binding. Those institutions, whether general libraries or law libraries, having many sheep bound books, will do well to examine this paper.

Mr. O. J. Field, Clerk of the Department of Justice, made two contributions to the

program, one being the history and functions of the Department of Justice, a most interesting and enlightening paper which should be of general interest at the present time. The other contribution was a report made by him as Chairman of the committee on the bibliography of Latin-American laws. With the rapid growth of commerce with these countries, has come an increasing demand for information as to their laws, legal institutions, etc. In the past it has been impossible to secure such information, except on the rare occasion when some specially qualified scholar has made a trip to those countries and has found time to look into the matter. There is no organization in the law book trade in those countries, and seldom does one bookseller handle the publications of another. It was to meet this condition that the Committee was appointed. Some time ago a carefully drawn circular letter in Spanish was sent to universities, bar associations, etc., throughout Latin America asking for bibliographical information, and information as to booksellers from whom the works could be secured. Only two replies were received to this first effort, which well illustrates the difficulty of securing either books or information. One of the replies, however, was from Juan B. Barrios, Secretary of the Academia Colombiana de Jurisprudencia. It was a thorough bibliography of Colombian laws and outlined the kind of information which librarians—particularly law librarians—need.

There was submitted an interesting report on the reprinting of session laws, showing just what states had undertaken the work, how far the work had been completed, and what states were contemplating such reprinting. It was the sentiment of the Association that such work

be encouraged, as it was considered impossible for any institution to build up a complete collection of original editions.

The National legislative reference service, which was started in 1910, was not continued during the current year on account of lack of sufficient subscribers. This much-regretted discontinuance, it was hoped, would be only temporary, and the joint Committee with the National association of state libraries was continued, with instructions to do what was possible to make the service permanent.

There were other papers and reports on the following subjects:

Law and legislative library conditions in Texas.

The use of Library of Congress cards by law libraries.

The training of law librarians in library work.

Bibliography of bar association proceedings, being the results of the study by Mr. Francis Rawle of Philadelphia, who allowed the Committee to use the data which he had secured by careful investigation covering many years.

The Association made a protest against the custom in the Federal courts of charging fees for copies of opinions. A committee

was appointed to report upon some method whereby law libraries could secure the decisions more cheaply.

The death on May 11, 1911, of Mr. A. H. R. Fraser was reported. Mr. Fraser was librarian of the Cornell University Law School, and one of the leaders in the law library profession.

It was reported with regret that Mr. Gilson G. Glasier had resigned as editor of the Index. His self-sacrificing and efficient editorship was commended by suitable resolutions.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President, George S. Godard, state librarian of Connecticut; 1st Vice-President, Frederick W. Schenk, law librarian, University of Chicago; 2d Vice-President, Miss Gertrude E. Woodard, law librarian, University of Michigan; Secretary, Franklin O. Poole, librarian of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York; Treasurer, E. Lee Whitney, asst. librarian, Vermont state library; Members of Executive Committee; Gilson G. Glasier, state librarian of Wisconsin; Ethelbert O. S. Scholefield, legislative librarian of British Columbia; Thomas W. Robinson, librarian, Los Angeles County law library.